

## Norovirus Toolkit for Healthcare Facilities-Attachment

### Environmental Cleaning Recommendations

*(Recommendations are for increased environmental cleaning **during** a norovirus outbreak, and are not intended as routine cleaning procedures)*

- Clean surfaces with detergent to remove particulate matter, then disinfect with hospital-approved disinfectant that is EPA registered with activity against norovirus. List is available at: [http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/list\\_g\\_norovirus.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/list_g_norovirus.pdf). A 1:10 solution of hypochlorite (bleach) to water is the preferred disinfectant when the setting and/or item to be cleaned allows it.
- Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfection of patient care areas and frequently touched surfaces
  - Disinfect all high-touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, tables, counter tops, computer keyboard frequently (every shift and whenever visibly soiled) with a solution of 1:10 hypochlorite (bleach) to water
  - Clean bathrooms every shift and anytime visibly soiled, with special attention to toilets and fixtures
  - Clean common areas and staff rooms, including refrigerators and freezers on a regular schedule and anytime visibly soiled
  - Clean rooms every 24 hours and on patient discharge
- Use disposable patient items whenever possible. When disposable items are not available, clean and disinfect shared equipment between patients using EPA-registered products with activity against norovirus. Follow the product's manufacturer's guidelines for application and contact times.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are less likely to be contaminated first (e.g. tray tables, countertops), then move to areas of higher contamination (e.g. toilets, bathroom fixtures)
  - Clean rooms of symptomatic patients LAST! After all other rooms have been cleaned
  - Ensure the mop head and solution are changed after cleaning rooms of infected patients
  - Clean floors with an approved disinfectant and change solution and mop head every 3 hours
- Change privacy curtains if soiled or contaminated and after discharge of patient. Launder according to usual procedures. Use standard precautions and appropriate PPE (e.g. gloves and gowns) to handle soiled linens.
- Remove all supplies from a room before an infected patient is housed in the room; any supplies left in these rooms after the infected patient's release should be discarded. All unused linens in the room after patient's discharge should be laundered according to usual practices.